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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/711,289	09/08/2004	Robert G. Coulombe	GTAP:102US	5288
24041	7590	04/04/2006		
SIMPSON & SIMPSON, PLLC 5555 MAIN STREET WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221-5406			EXAMINER MENEZES, MARCUS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3677	
DATE MAILED: 04/04/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/711,289

Applicant(s)

COULOMBE ET AL.

Examiner

Marcus Menezes

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 September 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

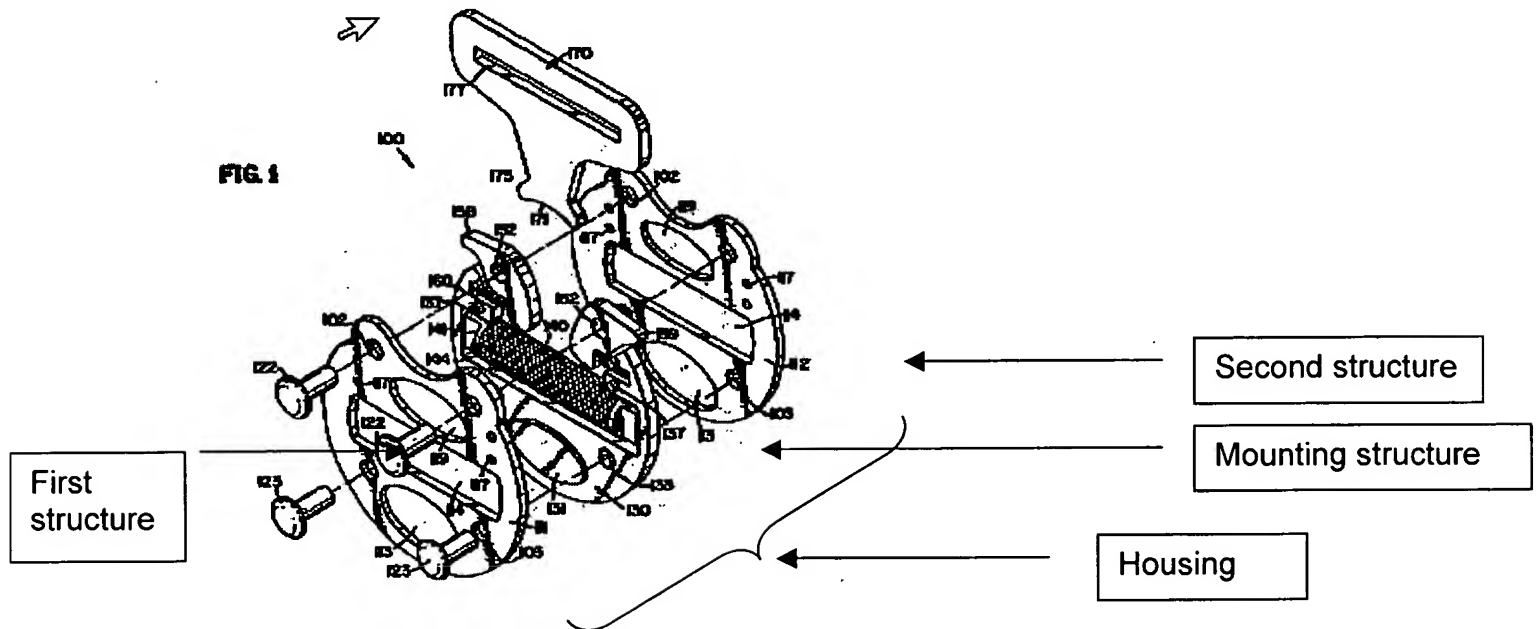
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Casebolt et al. (US Patent No.6,668,434).

Casebolt et al. discloses a quick release buckle (100) comprising of a first cam (158); a knurl bar (141); and a first spring (160 - left) operatively arranged to engage said first cam and said knurl bar. Casebolt et al. further discloses that said first spring is operatively arranged to apply compressive force against said first cam and said knurl bar when engaged with the buckle catch (170). In addition, a belt which operatively engages said knurl bar to grip said belt in response to said compressive force is disclosed. (See col. 2, lines 20-24). Casebolt et al. also discloses a second cam (159); and a second spring (160 - right) operatively arranged to engage said second cam and said knurl bar. Also, Casebolt discloses a tongue blade (171) and wherein said first and second cams are operatively arranged to grip said tongue blade in response to said compressive force as well as to said engagement by said first and second springs, respectively. Further, Casebolt et al. discloses a housing with a first and second integral mounting structure; and wherein said first cam is operatively arranged to rotate about said first mounting structure and wherein said second cam is operatively arranged

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to rotate about said second mounting structure. (See below). Also, said housing further comprises of first and second components and said mounting structure is integral to said first and second components and is extruded from said housing. Note that it has been held that the term "integral" is sufficiently broad to embrace constructions united by such means as fastening and welding. Finally, Casebolt et al. discloses that said housing further comprises of first and second components and said mounting structure is operatively arranged to engage said first and second components. (See below).



Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 3/13/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Casebolt does not teach a spring engaged with a cam and a knurl bar. However, the spring in Casebolt engages the cam and also the knurl bar

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via the cam. Examiner agrees with Applicant that the spring does not touch the knurl bar, however, Examiner reminds Applicant that the terms touch and engage have different meanings.

Applicant argues that Casebolt does not teach a cam mounted on the mounting structure. However, the cam is secured, thus mounted, onto the first mounting structure and the bolt (122) allows the cam to pivot about said mounting structure. Note, bolt passes through both first and second mounting structures, as is the case with the application. Further, Applicant claims without supports that the rivets are not integral to any structures of Casebolt. However, Examiner disagrees and finds that the Applicant's rivets (13) perform similarly to the bolts in Casebolt.

Applicant argues that Casebolt does not teach a cam rotating about an integral mounting structure. Examiner agrees with the Applicant that the Casebolt cams pivot about the rivets. However, if the Casebolt cam performs any rotation, then it is inherent that said cam will also rotate about the mounting structure (130). The point about which the cam rotates about the mounting structure is the hole (102) found on the mounting structure.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marcus Menezes whose telephone number is 571-272-6284. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 5:30pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marcus Menezes

Examiner

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MM


ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER